Fall in wholesale price index

†326. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reduction has been assessed in wholesale price index in the country during the last months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of essential consumer commodities have risen 5 per cent to 10 per cent during above mentioned time when wholesale price index was assessed to be low;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is Government's reaction towards the impact of this price hike of consumer commodities on common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Monthly WPI of all commodities and 30 essential commodities indicated in the table below reveals that while the overall WPI has increased, the WPI for 30 essential commodities has generally been stable.

Table: Monthly WPI of all commodities and 30 Essential Commodities (%)

Month	Wholesale price index	
	All comm.	Ess. comm.
January, 2007	208.8	202.1
February, 2007	208.9	202.2
March, 2007	209.8	201.0
April, 2007	211.5	201.2
May, 2007	212.3	201.0
June, 2007*	212.1	200.8
July, 2007*	213.0	202.8

* Provisional

(e) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of excise and import duties of essential items so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.